

# Funding the Future

## Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the most multination...

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The OECD has just (it seems) begun promoting [a dataset it has on multinational corporations](#). One indicator it publishes on the 500 company is it surveys is the number of jurisdictions they can be found in.

I stress, that the 500 are not all multinational corporations, by a long way. Why the 500 were chosen is not clear.

I could not resist a quick data resort. These are the most geographically diversified companies in the dataset (top 50 shown):

Parent MNE	Headquarters of Parent MNE	Number of Affiliates	Number of Jurisdictions declared in Annual Reporting	Number of Jurisdictions with a Physical Presence	Number of Jurisdictions with Presence
1 Alphabet Inc	US	58	2	20	192
2 Deutsche Post AG	DE	220	2	51	141
3 Schneider Electric SE	FR	515	71	72	132
4 British American Tobacco PLC	GB	585	124	127	127
5 Nestle SA	CH	633	118	118	124
6 Volkswagen AG	DE	1537	90	92	121
7 BT Group PLC	GB	348	117	117	118
8 Coca-Cola Co	US	232	29	42	117
9 Siemens AG	DE	1835	97	108	115
10 Total SA	FR	1164	89	94	113
11 Dell Technologies Inc	US	591	84	84	110
12 Bayerische Motoren Werke AG	DE	273	38	40	107
13 Orange SA	FR	510	102	103	106
14 Bayer AG	DE	545	87	89	102
15 Marriott International Inc	US	970	98	99	101
16 BNP Paribas SA	FR	1424	70	76	100
17 Abb Ltd	CH	511	96	97	98
18 Ecolab Inc	US	442	97	98	98
19 Royal Dutch Shell PLC	NL	1126	77	86	98
20 Aon PLC	GB	857	88	96	96
21 BASF SE	DE	608	88	90	95
22 Linde PLC	GB	787	92	93	95
23 Visa Inc	US	33	3	11	95
24 Cisco Systems Inc	US	405	88	89	94
25 International Business Machines Corp	US	287	88	91	94
26 Marsh & McLennan Companies Inc	US	895	93	94	94
27 Citigroup Inc	US	1178	28	91	93
28 Daimler AG	DE	595	52	54	93
29 Koninklijke Philips NV	NL	374	71	73	93
30 Tata Consultancy Services Ltd	IN	310	34	45	93
31 Atlas Copco AB	SE	338	72	75	92
32 Abbott Laboratories	US	667	87	88	91
33 Sanofi SA	FR	257	59	66	91
34 Volvo AB	SE	108	14	33	91
35 Colgate-Palmolive Co	US	258	81	82	90
36 American International Group Inc	US	383	38	58	89
37 Societe Generale SA	FR	1138	78	85	89
38 GlaxoSmithKline PLC	GB	484	84	85	88
39 PepsiCo Inc	US	585	84	85	87
40 Fresenius SE & Co KGaA	DE	2871	85	86	86
41 Mondelez International Inc	US	373	84	85	85
42 Procter & Gamble Co	US	369	72	77	85
43 Allianz SE	DE	1277	75	77	84
44 Henkel AG & Co KGaA	DE	317	80	80	84
45 Air Liquide SA	FR	908	82	83	83
46 Amadeus IT Group SA	ES	160	76	78	82
47 Beiersdorf AG	DE	241	69	70	81
48 3M Co	US	146	26	45	80
49 Unilever NV	NL	198	19	62	80
50 HP Inc	US	246	67	70	79

And these are the UK companies in the dataset (in total, ranked by the number of countries they are present in):

Parent MNE	Headquarters of Parent MNE	Number of Affiliates	Number of Jurisdictions declared in Annual Reporting	Number of Jurisdictions with a Physical Presence	Number of Jurisdictions with Presence
1 British American Tobacco PLC	GB	585	124	127	127
2 BT Group PLC	GB	348	117	117	118
3 Aon PLC	GB	857	88	96	96
4 Linde PLC	GB	787	92	93	95
5 GlaxoSmithKline PLC	GB	484	84	85	88
6 Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC	GB	487	76	76	79
7 HSBC Holdings PLC	GB	933	53	68	73
8 Imperial Brands PLC	GB	312	73	73	73
9 Vodafone Group PLC	GB	433	65	69	72
10 Compass Group PLC	GB	666	66	66	66
11 Standard Chartered PLC	GB	569	54	62	63
12 BP PLC	GB	164	3	53	59
13 Anglo American PLC	GB	437	52	52	54
14 Barclays PLC	GB	637	30	48	52
15 AstraZeneca PLC	GB	84	5	47	50
16 Rio Tinto PLC	GB	498	7	49	49
17 Prudential PLC	GB	813	33	36	47
18 Relx PLC	GB	181	1	22	43
19 LyondellBasell Industries NV	GB	291	41	42	42
20 BHP Group PLC	GB	303	33	38	38
21 Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC	GB	748	4	38	38
22 Diageo PLC	GB	76	6	19	24
23 Lloyds Banking Group PLC	GB	704	1	20	21
24 National Grid PLC	GB	212	9	10	10

And I bet you don't know what Linde plc does...

Now you might see why we need [country-by-country reporting](#). Without it we cannot know very much about a great deal of what goes on within these companies, most especially when a comparison between the number of companies reported on in the financial statements and the actual number of locations in which the entity is present is considered. Look at Alphabet on that one, if you will..... (which is Google, for those unfamiliar with the name of its parent company).